

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows: A new abstract numbered page 19 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

**ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

An optical cable having an optical core with a strength member and optical fibers embedded in a thermoplastic material. The optical core has a joint section having substantially the same diameter as the one of the optical core. The joint section has a jointed strength member and a plurality of spliced optical fibers, the jointed portion of the strength member and the spliced portion of the optical fibers being embedded into a cured polymeric material. A method for manufacturing an optical core is also disclosed.